

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing and maintaining a categorized Web browsing history, comprising the steps of:

using a directory service to get category metadata about user visited URLs; and

using metadata thus obtained to present a user's personal browser history in a screen display, wherein said screen display simultaneously displays at a single instant in time ~~simultaneously displaying~~ links to all of:

a personalized Web favorites list;

a time-based history; and

a category based hierarchy.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said directory service comprises the Open Directory Project.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said directory service comprises a database, that exposes a Web interface, and that allows navigating through categories to find Web sites.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein said categories are structured as trees, where each node of a tree has zero or one parents and zero or many children.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing and maintaining a categorized Web browsing history of a user, comprising the steps of:

for websites previously visited by the user, performing a reverse lookup in a database to find a chain of categories for a URL, every time a URL that has not been previously seen is added to a history;

for URLs for which there is no category in said database, iteratively retrying said reverse lookup using a less specific part of said URL until a category is found; and

presenting in an interactive user interface a resulting categorized web browsing history corresponding to said websites previously visited by the user; and

for a given category of previously visited web pages within said interactive user interface, said interactive user interface providing a link to said given category within a database of Web content never visited by the user,

wherein the user views previously visited pages within said interactive user interface and follows a link to a wider view of similar pages through said link.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of:
using standard relational database technology to store and query a local representation of said categories.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step of:
using a row in a first database table for each category node, wherein each row has a parent field to represent a node in a category chain.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising the step of:
using a second database table to store a relationship between each URL and its one specific category node.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
- given a category path, adding rows for any nodes that are not already in said local database; and
- setting parent links appropriately.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of:
- using standard relational database querying to find children categories of any given category by querying for all category nodes whose parent is a given category.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of:
- finding all URLs for a given category by querying for all URLs associated with said category.
- 12-13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 512, wherein said user interface for a hierarchy of data ~~can~~ is displayed as either of a tree list and a series of Web-style pages.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 512, wherein said user interface allows users to re-find Web sites by drilling down through familiar categories.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 512, wherein said user interface allows users to discover groups of previously visited pages which

happen to fall into a same category, wherein said previously visited pages comprise pages previously visited by a user of said user interface.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 512, ~~wherein from any given category display, said user interface supplies a link back to a full Web page for that category;~~ wherein within a same user interface, a user can focus on pages previously visited by said user and then navigate to a wider view of similar pages ~~that might be worth exploring.~~

18. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said database comprises the Open Directory Project.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said database exposes a Web interface, and allows navigating through categories to find Web sites.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of:
providing a plurality of Web browsing tools that display metadata and that allow capturing an image or Web page;
wherein said tools comprise any of Save Page and Stop Watching; and
wherein said metadata comprise any of Rating, Comments, Snapshots, and Categories.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of:
storing captured Web pages as part of a media library;
wherein a captured Web page may be viewed and searched even if an original page is changed or becomes unavailable.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of:

viewing Web pages that have either been captured locally or that are part of a browsing history as any of a passively personalized Web favorites list and in a time-based history view.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing and maintaining a categorized Web browsing history, comprising:

a directory service for providing category metadata about user visited URLs; and

means for using metadata thus obtained to:

establish a new category not previously defined within a category based hierarchy of a user's personal browser history using said metadata of said user visited URLs, wherein said new category comprises a subcategory of said category based hierarchy of the user's personal browser history; and

present a user's personal browser history in a category based hierarchy.

24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said directory service comprises the Open Directory Project.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein said directory service comprises a database, that exposes a Web interface, and that allows navigating through categories to find Web sites.

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said categories are structured as trees, where each node of a tree has zero or one parents and zero or many children.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium comprising at least one storage element on which is stored a program comprising instructions that, when executed by a computer, implement a method for establishing and maintaining a categorized Web browsing history of a user, said method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

for websites previously visited by the user, performing a reverse lookup in a database to find a chain of categories for a URL, every time a URL that has not been previously seen is added to a history;

for URLs for which there is no category in said database, iteratively retrying said reverse lookup using a less specific part of said URL until a category is found; and

presenting in an interactive user interface a resulting categorized web browsing history; and

for a given category of previously visited web pages within said interactive user interface, said interactive user interface providing a link to said given category within a database of Web content never visited by the user,

wherein the user views previously visited pages within said interactive user interface and follows a link to a wider view of similar pages through said link.

28. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 27, said program further comprising a method performing the step of:

using standard relational database technology to store and query a local representation of said categories.

29. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 28, said program further comprising a method performing the step of:

using a row in a first database table for each category node, wherein each row has a parent field to represent a node in a category chain.

30. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 29, said program further comprising a method performing the step of:

using a second database table to store a relationship between each URL and its one specific category node.

31. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 30, said program further comprising a method performing the steps of:

given a category path, adding rows for any nodes that are not already in said local database; and

setting parent links appropriately.

32. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 31, said program further comprising a method performing the step of:

using standard relational database querying to find children categories of any given category by querying for all category nodes whose parent is a given category.

33. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 32, said program further comprising a method performing the step of:

finding all URLs for a given category by querying for all URLs associated with said category.

34-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The storage medium of Claim 27, ~~34~~, wherein said user interface for a hierarchy of data can is displayed as either of a tree list and a series of Web-style pages.

37. (Currently Amended) The storage medium of Claim 27, ~~34~~, wherein said user interface allows users to re-find Web sites by drilling down through familiar categories.

38. (Currently Amended) The storage medium of Claim 27, ~~34~~, wherein said user interface allows users to discover groups of previously visited pages which happen to fall into a same category.

39. (Currently Amended) The storage medium of Claim 27, ~~34~~, ~~wherein from any given category display, said user interface supplies a link back to a full Web page for that category;~~ wherein within a same user interface, a user can focus on previously visited pages and then navigate to a wider view of similar pages ~~that might be worth exploring.~~

40. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 27, wherein said database comprises the Open Directory Project.

41. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 40, wherein said database exposes a Web interface, and allows navigating through categories to find Web sites.

42. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 27, said program further comprising a method performing the step of:

providing a plurality of Web browsing tools that display metadata and that allow capturing an image or Web page;

wherein said tools comprise any of Save Page and Stop Watching; and

wherein said metadata comprise any of Rating, Comments, Snapshots, and Categories.

43. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 42, said program further comprising a method performing the step of:

storing captured Web pages as part of a media library;

wherein a captured Web page may be viewed and searched even if an original page is changed or becomes unavailable.

44. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 42, said program further comprising a method performing the step of:

viewing Web pages that have either been captured locally or that are part of a browsing history as any of a passively personalized Web favorites list and in a time-based history view.

45. (Cancelled) ~~A method for establishing and maintaining a categorized web browsing favorites list, comprising the steps of:~~

~~using a directory service to get category meta data about user visited URLs; and~~

~~using meta data thus obtained to present a personalized Web favorites list in a category based hierarchy.~~